The Bugbear Talisman

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I THINK YER DEVELOPIN' AN OBSESSION.
IT'S NOT AN OBSESSION!!
BUGBEARS CAN GO ANYWHERE, THEY KNOW WHERE EVERYBODY IS AT ALL TIMES, THEY CAN'T BE SURPRISED!
IT'S LIKE THEY EVOLVED FOR THE EXPRESS PURPOSE OF MESSING WITH BLOKES.
AND THIS ADMIRATION HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH TRYING TO PRANK ALEC HYDE?
THERE'S GOTTA BE SOME WAY TO GET HIM!!
NOBODY IS PRANK PROOF...
AND YOU CAN DO THAT WITH THIS THING?
MAYBE. PROBABLY. WHO KNOWS? IT MIGHT!
THERE'S GOTTA BE SOMETHING IN THIS WORLD CAPABLE OF CATCHING A BUGBEAR OFF GUARD, AND I AM GOING TO FIND IT.
IT IS MY HOLY GRAIL.
I AM AS ARTHUR, ON THE HOLIEST OF QUESTS.
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YOU CAN TELL YOUR GRANDKIDS ABOUT THE DAY YOU PUT NAIR IN A BUGBEAR'S SHAMPOO.
YOU'RE THINKING FAR TOO SMALL, DEAN, MY LAD!
MADAM U!
WHAT IS THIS AND HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?
250 POUNDS.
HOWEVER...
...IT IS NOT FOR SALE TO MISCHIEVOUS GLAISTIGS.
AWW, WHAT? NO FAIR!!
MY STORE, MY RULES.
THE BUGBEAR TALISMAN IS NOT A TOY FOR PRANKS AND MINDLESS TRICKERY.
TALISMAN!?
DEAN, DEAN, IT'S A TALISMAN. I BET IT'S JUST DRIPPIN' WIF' MAGIC.
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WHAT DOES THIS THING DO, EXACTLY?
UNKNOWN.
RUMORS SUGGEST THAT IT BLOCKS THE HOLDER FROM A BUGBEAR'S INTERNAL RADAR.
DEAN! DEEEAAANN! THIS LETS YOU SNEAK UP ON A BUGBEAR!
SHE SAID SHE DOESN'T KNOW WHAT IT DOES, LILY.
SHE WON'T SELL IT TO YOU ANYWAY! I SAY WE GO TO THE DRUNKEN SATYR AND--
WHAT.
500 POUNDS.
LILY ARE YOU NUTS? HOW DO YOU EVEN HAVE THAT KIND OF MONEY?
I CAN SPEND MY NOTES ON WHATEVER RIDICULOUS THING I WANT TO SPEND THEM ON, AND I WANT. THIS. TALISMAN.
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WELL I'M NOT BUYING YOU A PINT THE NEXT TIME YOU SAY YOU'RE SHORT. THOSE DAYS ARE OVER, MONEYBAGS...
HOW ABOUT IT, MADAM U? TWICE YOUR ASKING PRICE. I CAN PAY YOU RIGHT NOW.
WHY DO YOU HAVE 500 POUNDS IN CASH ON YOU??
NEVER YOU MIND!!

YOU DRIVE A HARD BARGAIN, MISS SNODGRASS.
IS THAT A YES??
Siighh
DEAL.
ONLY BECAUSE I KNOW IF I DON'T SELL IT TO YOU, YOU WILL MOST LIKELY STEAL IT.
TCK
MADAM U, YOU ARE BEAUTIFUL! I COULD JUST KISS YOU!
WE WILL ALL BE HAPPIER IF YOU DIDN'T, MISS SNODGRASS.
CONGRATS ON YOUR USELESS ROCK THAT COST HALF A GRAND.
CHUMP CHANGE, MY GOOD MAN!
THIS LITTLE ROCK WILL BE WORTH ITS PRICE THRICE OVER IN THE AMOUNT OF GLEE IT SHALL PROVIDE.
IT SOUNDS LIKE YOU HAVE A DRUG PROBLEM...
OI! WHERE ARE YOU GOIN' NOW?
I'LL CATCH UP. I GOTTA TEST THIS THING OUT.
SALE

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THIS GUY
IS
CRAP
...
THE LAST TIME I DID THAT THE PAPER BURST INTO FLAME AND SCREAMED LIKE A DYING RABBIT.
DO YOU KNOW WHAT THIS MEANS??
ALEC DOESN'T CARE IF YOU DEFACE HIS POSTERS ANYMORE?
ALEC DIDN'T KNOW I DID IT!! THE TALISMAN WORKS!
NOW WHERE ARE YOU GOING? LET'S JUST GO TO THE PUB!
KEEP A PINT READY FOR ME, WILL YA?
THERE IS SOMETHING I FEEL I MUST DO.
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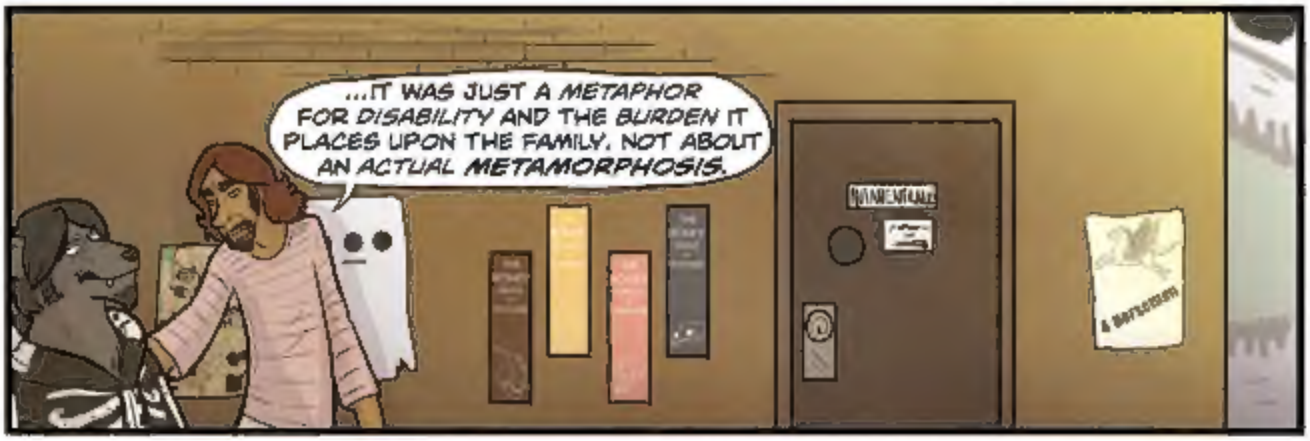

NOT EVERYTHING IS MEANT TO BE TAKEN AT FACE VALUE!
IT'S A LITERARY DEVICE! ALEC, DON'T LOOK AT ME LIKE THAT, I KNOW WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT!

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KAFKA WAS NOT A BUGBEAR.
HOW DO YOU KNOW?
1408
ACCORDING TO YOU A FULL 2/3RDS OF THE POPULATION ARE BUGBEARS.
WELL...?
YOU AND YER DAD ARE THE ONLY BUGBEARS I'VE EVER SEEN IN ME LIFE.
WELL THAT DON'T MEAN THERE AIN'T MORE. YOU JUS' NEVER SEE—
HONH
HONH

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EH? WHAT'S THIS?
YOUR MEAD, MISSUS.
MEAD? I DIDN'T ORDER NO MEAD!
CONGRATULATIONS, SNODGRASS.
I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU SLIPPED OFF ME RADAR...
...BUT YOU HAVE SUCCESSFULLY PROGRESSED FROM A MERE ANNOYANCE TO A BEING OF EXTREME INTEREST.
I HOPE YOU ENJOY THE EXTRA ATTENTION.

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I TAKE BACK WHAT I SAID ABOUT THAT ROCK, LILY.
I'VE NEVER SEEN ALEC SO RATTLED.
WAS THAT WORTH THE MONEY?
THIS IS THE GREATEST DAY OF MY LIFE.
AHHH! BEES!
THE END!
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